

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing illumination dispersed over the length of a translucent fishing rod having a hollow core from a base end to a tip end, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a light source interior to the rod and located at one end of the rod; and

directing the light waves of the light source towards the opposite end of the rod through the hollow core.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the hollow core is tapered from the base end to the tip end, and the step of providing a light source interior to the rod further comprises locating the light source at the base end of the rod, whereby the rod is illuminated by the light waves being refracted due to the tapered hollow core.

3. An illuminated fishing rod having a base end and a tip end, said fishing rod comprising:

a translucent rod having a hollow core; and

a light source generally located within the hollow core

substantially near one end of the hollow core in such a manner as to direct the light waves toward the opposite end of the hollow core.

4. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 3, wherein the hollow core is tapered from the base end to the tip end and the light source is generally located within the hollow core substantially near the base end.

5. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 4, further comprising:

a power supply for powering said light source; and,

means for controlling the intensity of the light source.

6. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 5, wherein the rod includes a handle with an end portion and the means for controlling the intensity of the light source further comprises a potentiometer recessed within the end portion of the handle and operable to adjust the illumination intensity of the light source.

7. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 5, wherein the rod includes a handle with an end portion and the means for controlling the intensity of the light source further comprises a potentiometer recessed within the end portion of the handle and operable to adjust the illumination intensity of the light source at various levels between on and off.

8. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 4, wherein said light source is a light emitting diode.

9. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 8, wherein the light source is mounted within a reflective surface for focusing the light waves toward the tip end.

10. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 9, wherein the reflective surface is a concave member that includes a layer of electroplated nickel to concentrate the light waves within the hollow core.

11. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 3, wherein the translucent rod includes an opaque material covering portions of the translucent rod and thereby controlling the illumination of the translucent rod.

12. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 11, wherein opaque material is applied to the translucent rod in a manner to create a gradient pattern for the selective illumination of the rod.

13. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 3, further comprising a coating of phosphor applied to the surface of the hollow core.

14. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 3, wherein at least one light refractor is located within the hollow core and operates to refract the light waves external to the translucent rod.

15. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 14, wherein at least one light refractor is mounted within the hollow core at an angle.

16. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 14, wherein at least one light refractor is mounted within the hollow core substantially perpendicular to the walls of the hollow core.

17. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 3, wherein the translucent rod is substantially transparent.

18. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 3, wherein said translucent rod, in proximity to the light source, is partially coated with an opaque layer to provide a gradient pattern to form a semi-opaque layer.

19. An illuminated fishing rod having a base end and a tip end, the fishing rod comprising:

a translucent rod having a hollow core;  
a light source generally located within the hollow core; and  
a means for refracting the light waves from the light source in such a manner as to cause light waves to exit the translucent fishing rod, whereby the translucent fishing rod is illuminated.

20. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 19, wherein the light source is located at the base end and the means for refracting the light waves further comprises a hollow core that is tapered from the base end to the tip end.

21. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 19, wherein the means for refracting the light waves from the light source further comprises one or more refractors.

22. The illuminated fishing rod of claim 19, wherein the means for refracting the light waves further comprises a light wave conducting medium internal to the fishing rod, the light wave conducting medium having refractive characteristics to direct light waves traveling through the medium external to  
5 the rod.

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